WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Crop diversification project of Maharashtra

2401. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal for crop diversification project for the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. Government of Maharashtra has not submitted proposal on Crop Diversification to Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Modified Crop Insurance Project of Maharashtra

2402. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has submitted modified crop insurance scheme for the State and requested for its accord;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the necessary sanction will be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra submitted a proposal for an effective coverage of farmers in rainfed areas under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). The proposed scheme provides for coverage of rainfed crops with 90% indemnity level and 100% premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers.

The proposal was considered by the Joint Group constituted by the Government to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes. As the proposed scheme was confined to the State of Maharashtra only, therefore, it was not felt appropriate to consider for

all India level scheme. However, some suggestions like raising of indemnity level, provision of adequate premium subsidy etc. were considered.

Kisan Call Centres

2403. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kisan Call Centres have been set up in Uttaranchal to assist the farmers; and

(b) if so, the number of such KCCs opened in various districts of the hilly and backward State of Uttaranchal so far alongwith the details of their functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kisan Call Centre located at Kanpur replies to the queries of the farmers from the State of Uttaranchal, including all hilly districts.

A country wide common four digit number 1551 has been allocated for Kisan Call Centres (KCCs). Thirteen Kisan Call Centres located in different parts of the country provide information to the farming community throughout the country. Calls are attended from 6.00 A.M. to 10.00 P.M. on all 7 days of the week. The farmers' queries are answered in their local language by the Level-I agents located at various call centres. If the Level-I agent is not able to answer the query, the call is escalated on a conference call mode to the Level-I I specialists identified for the purpose under the scheme.

Advance planning for increasing agricultural production

2404. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have directed State Governments to prepare advance planning to increase production in agriculture sector especially in growing potatoes and onions during 2006-07; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?